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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to express their sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Jeffrey Paul Radford, minister of music at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, who passed away on August 12, 2002; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Radford, a South Side resident, began his music ministry at Trinity in October 1972; he was described as the "right arm" of the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Trinity's pastor, in leading the membership from fewer than 100 people in 1972 to 8,000 today, the largest congregation among the 6,000 churches in the United Church of Christ; at his death, Trinity's seven choirs included 950 singers; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Radford's musical genius extended far beyond the walls of Trinity United Church of Christ; within the United Church, he taught courses at Chicago Theological Seminary, led workshops all around the country, and was a featured organist and choir director for many national events; his work with the James Cleveland Gospel Music Workshop of America, the Thomas Dorsey Music convention, and his international fame led to him to be invited to bring the Sanctuary Choir and the Women's Chorus of Trinity to Switzerland on three occasions; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Radford led a delegation of African-American musicians to Cuba to teach gospel music to the Afro-Cubans and to show the Cuban Church how the African-American musical tradition had breathed life into the African-American Church; he also traveled with selected choir members to Puerto Rico to represent the United States at a national youth conference; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Radford was influential in developing two hymnals within the past decade, "The New Century Hymnal of

1 the United Church of Christ" and the "African-American
2 Hymnal"; in September, Mr. Radford was scheduled to be
3 awarded the degree of doctor of arts from Chicago Theological
4 Seminary; he will receive it posthumously; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Radford is survived by two brothers, William
6 M. Radford and Rollo A. Radford; and a nephew, Calvin;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we mourn, along with all who knew him, the death of Jeffrey
11 Paul Radford of Chicago; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Jeffrey Paul Radford with our
14 sincere condolences.